

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled)

3.(New) A solenoid having a cylindrical excitation coil and a plunger movable in the excitation coil, said solenoid being adapted to generate electromagnetic force to move the plunger when an electric current is supplied to the excitation coil,

wherein a side of a plunger compartment accommodating the plunger and water as a working fluid is closed with a cover, said cover being formed from a disk-shaped cover portion made of a magnetic material and a cylindrical portion projecting from the cover portion in such a manner as to surround a part of an outer periphery of the plunger, said cover being provided with upper and lower through-holes communicatively extending through said cover from an outside of the solenoid to the plunger compartment, wherein an uppermost part of the upper through-hole is above or level with an uppermost part of the plunger compartment, and a lowermost part of the lower through-hole is below or level with a lowermost part of the plunger compartment such that air can be exhausted from the plunger compartment through the upper through-hole.